

JUL 19 1927

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

A Brief Summary of Economic Conditions

ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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WHEAT HARVEST ON—CROP GROWTH SLOW

Haying and wheat harvest have nearly overtaken spring planting this year. Winter wheat harvest is now coming into full swing, and haying is in general progress. One thing the country has this season is a crop of grass. Corn, potatoes, and the spring grains are still behind time, though they made progress during June. Corn has a very poor start, but a cool, wet season does not necessarily mean crop failure. In the past the yield of corn has averaged above normal in the wet seasons, although temperature averaged below normal in those seasons. Notwithstanding that warm weather is favorable to corn, the records of the past 36 years indicate that the amount of rainfall is the dominant factor governing the yield of corn.

Wheat harvest is now moving up through Kansas, and new wheat is becoming plentiful in the southwestern markets. The early threshings have been disappointing both in yield and weight. In Kansas the rains last month damaged the grain and seriously handicapped the harvest, but in Nebraska conditions are good, and the outlook is for a record crop. Spring wheat is making excellent growth in the North, with similar reports from Canada.

The month has been one of improvement in the South. Rains have broken the serious drought in both the Southeast and Southwest. In the flooded central valleys immediate planting followed the retreating waters, and farmers have been working nights in the effort to bring cultivation to normal. Cotton is making a fair though spotted progress. The whole cotton situation has become much more promising than was thought possible two months ago.

The recent rise in cotton prices has been part of a rather broader price readjustment. It has been a sort of leveling-out process, such low-priced products as cotton, corn, and cattle advancing, while relatively higher priced hogs, eggs, and butter declined. One important result has been to wipe out the exceptional spread between corn and hog prices, which has been so favorable to feeders for more than a year. Cattle, on the other hand, now have the highest unit exchange value in eight years.

KEY REGIONS AT A GLANCE

The East.—Crops very backward but otherwise generally in good condition. Grass and pastures are exceptionally good. Haying is under way but has progressed slowly for lack of sunshine. Fruit prospect only fair. The backwardness of corn and rising prices of feed grains are unpromising items in the dairy situation; however, milk prices are still relatively high, and cows are on pasture at present.

The South.—Serious drought in both east and west relieved by generous rains. Cotton in bloom; reported making only moderate progress but with condition fairly good, on the whole. Less cotton land abandoned in flood area than at first thought probable. Planters running their tractors and cultivators at night to catch up work. Numerous reports of increasing weevil menace. Whole region heartened by higher cotton prices.

Corn Belt.—Corn planting very late. Crops generally backward except grass. Where corn had germinated and started growth it made fair progress last month, but as a whole the crop has an exceedingly poor start. Winter-grain harvest is under way; some damage reported from rust and storms. Whole region concerned over drop in hog prices, but cattle are higher, and cash corn growers are encouraged by rise in corn prices.

Wheat Belt.—Harvest of winter wheat moving up through Kansas, but has been retarded by persistent rains. Yields light in South. Kansas wheat cut by early drought in west and seriously damaged by late rains and rust in east. Nebraska reports excellent crop. Spring wheat got very late start but has made good growth. Some hail damage. General sentiment rather more optimistic in northern than in southern belt.

Range Country.—Been having the same kind of cool, wet weather as other sections. As result, ranges are fine, hay crop good, corn and small grains very backward; irrigation water ample for the most part. Sugar beets thinned and doing well. Livestock generally reported in excellent condition. Most cattlemen as well as sheep raisers are once more optimistic. General morale of the whole range country is the best since 1921.

Pacific Coast.—The coast was blessed with some good weather last month, and crop growth as well as outdoor work made progress. Winter-wheat harvest is on, and the coast crop is a big one. Range feed is abundant, with stock in correspondingly good condition. Haying and picking berries in north. Harvesting grain, melons, etc., in California. Oranges reported excellent in Sacramento Valley and satisfactory elsewhere.

TREND OF DAIRY PRODUCTION

[Million pounds, 000,000 omitted]

PRODUCTION

	May			January to May, inclusive		
	1927	1926	Per cent change	1927	1926	Per cent change
Creamery butter.....	165	156	+6.2	583	564	+3.3
Farm butter.....	62	63	-1.7	211	215	-1.7
Total butter.....	227	219	+3.9	794	779	+1.9
Cheese.....	41	41	-0.4	144	155	-9.3
Condensed and evaporated milk.....	241	202	+19.4	828	691	+19.8
Total milk equivalent....	5,792	5,526	+4.8	20,167	19,667	+2.5

APPARENT CONSUMPTION

[Including production, changes in stocks, and net imports or exports]

Butter.....	249	205	+21.3	807	802	+0.7
Cheese.....	42	41	-0.4	196	200	-9.3
Condensed and evaporated milk.....	164	168	+19.4	818	642	+27.3
Total milk equivalent....	6,078	5,148	+18.1	20,974	20,462	+2.5

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COLD STORAGE SITUATION

[June 1 holdings (shows nearest million—i. e., 000,000 omitted)]

Commodity	5-year average	Year ago	Month ago	June 1, 1927
Creamery butter.....pounds..	18	31	3	25
American cheese.....do.....	26	39	32	36
Egg cases.....cases.....	8	7	6	9
Total poultry.....pounds.....	49	43	77	61
Total beef.....do.....	63	53	63	50
Total pork.....do.....	752	574	770	787
Lard.....do.....	116	107	100	112
Lamb and mutton.....do.....	3	2	2	1
Total meats.....do.....	880	677	894	900
Apples.....barrels.....	.5	.6	2	.5

AVERAGE PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS

Actual prices received by producers at local farm markets as reported to the division of crop and livestock estimates of this bureau. Average of reports covering the United States, weighted according to relative importance of district and State.

	5-year average, August, 1909- July, 1914	May average, 1910- 1914	May, 1926	April, 1927	May, 1927
Cotton, per lb.....cents..	12. 4	12. 7	16. 0	12. 3	13. 9
Corn, per bu.....do.....	64. 2	66. 2	67. 1	65. 6	73. 0
Wheat, per bu.....do.....	88. 4	90. 3	142. 1	117. 2	123. 2
Hay, per ton.....dollars..	11. 87	12. 28	13. 12	13. 26	13. 20
Potatoes, per bu.....cents..	69. 7	69. 5	244. 8	126. 6	146. 0
Oats, per bu.....do.....	39. 9	41. 5	39. 5	43. 2	45. 4
Beef cattle, per 100 lbs. -----dollars..	5. 22	5. 50	6. 57	7. 13	7. 17
Hogs, per 100 lbs....do.....	7. 23	7. 23	11. 97	10. 41	9. 41
Eggs, per doz.....cents..	21. 5	16. 7	25. 2	20. 3	19. 8
Butter, per lb.....do.....	25. 5	24. 1	40. 1	43. 4	42. 1
Butterfat, per lb....do.....			39. 1	47. 1	43. 6
Wool, per lb.....do.....	17. 7	17. 8	32. 0	30. 4	30. 1
Veal calves, per 100 lbs. -----dollars..	6. 75	6. 59	8. 92	9. 90	9. 37
Lambs, per 100 lbs.do.....	5. 91	6. 46	11. 78	11. 97	11. 92
Horses, each.....do.....	142. 00	144. 00	84. 00	80. 00	81. 00

Cotton prices with a gain of about 13 per cent over the April price featured in the advances for the month. The flooded conditions along the Mississippi as they affect crop acreage in the inundated areas, together with further prospects of boll-weevil damage, delayed plantings in many sections, the heavy export movement and the continued high rate of domestic consumption are probably reflected in the advance of the farm price.

Behind the gains of about 11 per cent in corn prices is probably to be found the unfavorable spring, delayed plantings, and light receipts which have caused uneasiness on the market and advancing prices. Not since the war period have there been any comparable advances of the May farm price of corn over the April price. In 1919 May prices advanced 8 per cent over the previous month, which was the largest advance for the same period during recent years.

Wheat also made sharp gains over the previous month. The increase of the May farm price of 10 per cent over the April price has been equaled twice in the past eight years—in 1919 and 1924. While it is not unusual for grains to advance some from April to May, such abrupt movements between April and May are uncommon.

PRICE INDEXES FOR MAY, 1927

Farm products figures from this bureau; commodity groups from Bureau of Labor Statistics (latter shown to nearest whole number). Shows year ago and latest available month.

FARM PRODUCTS

[Prices at the farm; August, 1909-July, 1914=100]

	May, 1926	April, 1927	May, 1927	Month's trend
Cotton.....	129	99	112	Higher.
Corn.....	105	102	114	Do.
Wheat.....	161	133	139	Do.
Hay.....	111	112	111	Lower.
Potatoes.....	351	182	209	Higher.
Beef cattle.....	126	137	138	Do.
Hogs.....	165	144	130	Lower.
Eggs.....	117	94	92	Do.
Butter.....	157	170	165	Do.
Wool.....	180	171	169	Do.

COMMODITY GROUPS

[Wholesale prices: 1910-1914=100]¹

	May, 1926	April, 1927	May, 1927	Month's trend
Farm products.....	144	137	137	Unchanged.
Food, etc.....	153	146	147	Higher.
Cloths and clothing.....	180	172	173	Do.
Fuel and lighting.....	207	186	184	Lower.
Metal and metal products.....	134	131	129	Do.
Building materials.....	177	170	171	Higher.
Chemicals, etc.....	129	120	121	Do.
House-furnishing goods.....	168	163	163	Unchanged.
All commodities.....	154	147	147	Do.

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics index numbers converted to 1910-1914 base.

RELATIVE PURCHASING POWER

[At May, 1927, farm prices; August, 1909-July, 1914=100]

In terms of—	Of a unit of—				
	Cotton	Corn	Wheat	Hay	Pota- toes
All commodities-----	76	78	95	76	143
Cloths, etc-----	65	66	81	64	121
Fuel, etc-----	61	62	76	61	114
Metals, etc-----	87	88	108	86	162
Building materials-----	66	67	82	65	123
House-furnishing goods-----	69	70	86	68	129

In terms of—	Beef cattle	Hogs	Eggs	Butter	Wool
All commodities-----	94	89	63	113	115
Cloths, etc-----	80	75	53	95	98
Fuel, etc-----	75	71	50	90	92
Metals, etc-----	107	101	71	128	131
Building materials-----	81	76	54	97	99
House-furnishing goods-----	85	80	57	101	104

Some price changes occurred last month which have had significant effect on the relative exchange value of important products. In general, the crops have improved their exchange position while the livestock products have receded slightly.

Of the five major crops listed above, cotton advanced 8 points, corn 8 points, wheat 5 points, and potatoes 19 points in unit purchasing power during the month.

Among the livestock products, hogs declined 3 points, eggs 1 point, butter 3 points, wool 1 point. Beef cattle, on the other hand, advanced 1 point.

The advance in exchange value of the crops noted above is a development of importance. If it continues or is maintained through the harvest this fall, it means a substantial improvement in conditions over an extensive territory. The situation since last year has been unbalanced, especially by reason of low prices for several leading cash crops. Given a higher exchange value for cotton, wheat, and potatoes, together with a better balance between corn and meat animals, the general result will be favorable to farmers as a whole.

If there is any warning to producers in the recent movement of prices, it applies particularly to poultry and less forcibly but just as definitely to hogs. It is encouraging to cattle raisers.

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS RELATED TO AGRICULTURE

	May, 1926	April, 1927	May, 1927	Month's trend
PRODUCTION				
Pig iron, daily (thousand tons)-----	112	114	109	Decrease.
Bituminous coal (million tons)-----	39	35	35	Unchanged.
Steel ingots (thousand long tons)-----	3, 928	4, 130	4, 046	Decrease.
CONSUMPTION				
Cotton, by mills (thousand bales)-----	516	619	633	Increase.
Unfilled orders, Steel Corporation (thousand tons).	3, 649	3, 456	3, 051	Decrease.
Building contracts in 27 Northeastern States (million dollars).	424	539	475	Do.
Hogs slaughtered (thousands)-----	1, 872	2, 050	2, 360	Increase.
Cattle slaughtered (thousands)-----	1, 194	1, 066	1, 201	Do.
Sheep slaughtered (thousands)-----	885	800	971	Do.
MOVEMENTS				
Bank clearings (New York) (billion dollars).	23	26	25	Decrease.
Car loadings (thousands)-----	4, 146	4, 891	4, 097	Do.
Mail-order sales (million dollars)-----	34	41	34	Do.
Employees, New York State factories (thousands).	498	487	480	Do.
Average price 25 industrial stocks (dollars).	147	200	210	Increase.
Interest rate (4-6 months' paper, (New York) (per cent).	4. 00	4. 06	4. 13	Do.
Retail food price index (Department of Labor). ¹	161	154	155	Higher.
Wholesale price index (Department of Labor). ¹	152	144	144	Unchanged.

¹ 1913=100.

There is little new to be said about the business situation. Some recession is evident in the automobile industry and in other industries which normally slacken off in the summer months. But, in general, the picture is still one of activity, fairly full employment, and industrial prosperity.

Perhaps one of the most interesting suggestions from capable observers is that of the possibility of rising interest rates later in the year. Should that come to pass it might affect the stock market and the general credit situation to some degree. There is nothing yet in sight likely to influence agricultural conditions materially.

GENERAL TREND OF WAGES AND PRICES

[1910-1914=100]

Year and month	General wage level ¹	Farm wages ²	Retail price of food ³	Wholesale price of food ³	Wholesale price all commodities ⁴
1910.....		97	96	100	103
1911.....		97	95	96	95
1912.....		101	101	103	101
1913.....		104	103	99	102
1914.....	⁵ 100	101	106	101	100
1915.....	101	102	104	104	103
1916.....	114	112	117	120	129
1917.....	129	140	151	166	180
1918.....	160	176	174	187	198
1919.....	185	206	192	205	210
1920.....	222	239	210	218	230
1921.....	203	150	158	143	150
1922.....	197	146	146	137	152
1923.....	214	166	151	143	156
1924.....	218	166	150	143	152
1925.....	223	168	162	156	162
1926.....	228	171	166	152	154
May—					
1921.....	204		149	138	148
1922.....	194		143	137	150
1923.....	218		147	143	159
1924.....	217		145	136	150
1925.....	221		146	152	158
1926					
January.....	229	159	169	155	159
February.....	225		166	152	158
March.....	229		165	150	154
April.....	227	166	167	152	154
May.....	226		166	153	154
June.....	228		165	156	155
July.....	227	174	162	153	153
August.....	227		161	150	152
September.....	231		163	151	153
October.....	231	176	165	151	152
November.....	230		167	150	151
December.....	232		167	150	150
1927					
January.....	232	162	164	149	150
February.....	231		161	147	149
March.....	234		159	146	148
April.....	230	166	158	146	147
May.....	230		160	147	147

¹ Average weekly earnings, New York State factories.² Index based on both monthly and daily wages.³ Bureau of Labor Statistics index numbers converted to 1910-1914 base.⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics.⁵ June.

GENERAL TREND OF PRICES AND PURCHASING POWER

[On 5-year base, August, 1909–July, 1914=100]

Year and month	Index numbers of farm prices							Wholesale prices of nonagricultural commodities ¹	Relative purchasing power of farmer's product ²
	Grains	Fruits and vegetables	Meat animals	Dairy products	Poultry products	Cotton and cotton seed	All groups, 30 items		
1910.....	104	91	103	100	104	113	103	102	101
1911.....	96	106	87	97	91	101	95	96	99
1912.....	106	110	95	103	101	87	99	100	99
1913.....	92	92	108	100	101	97	100	105	95
1914.....	103	100	112	100	105	85	102	97	105
1915.....	120	83	104	98	103	78	100	101	99
1916.....	126	123	120	102	116	119	117	138	85
1917.....	217	202	173	125	157	187	176	182	97
1918.....	226	162	202	152	185	245	200	188	107
1919.....	231	189	206	173	206	247	209	199	105
1920.....	231	249	173	188	222	248	205	241	85
1921.....	112	148	108	148	161	101	116	167	69
1922.....	105	152	113	134	139	156	124	168	74
1923.....	114	136	106	148	145	216	135	171	79
1924.....	129	124	109	134	147	211	134	162	83
1925.....	156	160	139	137	161	177	147	165	89
1926.....	129	189	146	136	156	122	136	161	85
May—									
1920.....	277	373	181	187	186	303	235	254	92
1921.....	116	132	111	141	111	78	112	168	66
1922.....	115	206	119	126	114	144	127	164	78
1923.....	123	157	108	142	117	211	135	176	77
1924.....	114	132	107	128	109	222	129	162	80
1925.....	159	162	139	132	131	184	146	161	90
1926.....	131	240	148	130	135	130	139	160	87
1927									
January.....	120	140	140	144	173	85	126	156	81
February.....	122	142	143	143	145	94	127	155	82
March.....	121	140	144	139	115	102	126	153	82
April.....	119	147	143	140	114	101	125	151	83
May.....	127	158	137	136	112	113	126	150	84

¹ Computed by Bureau of Labor Statistics from wholesale prices of all commodities except those from United States farms. 1910–1914=100.

² The value of a unit of the farmer's product in exchange for nonagricultural products at wholesale prices, compared with pre-war values. Obtained by dividing index of all groups (30 items) by the index of the wholesale prices of nonagricultural products.

THE TREND OF MOVEMENT TO MARKET

Figures show wheat, corn, hogs, cattle, sheep receipts at primary markets; butter receipts at five markets, compiled by this bureau.

Year and month	Receipts					
	Wheat	Corn	Hogs	Cattle	Sheep	Butter
Total—	<i>1,000 bushels</i>	<i>1,000 bushels</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>
1920.....	332,314	210,332	42,121	22,197	23,538	402,755
1921.....	435,606	340,908	41,101	19,787	24,168	468,150
1922.....	413,106	378,598	44,068	23,218	22,364	526,714
1923.....	386,430	271,858	55,330	23,211	22,025	545,380
1924.....	482,007	278,719	55,414	23,695	22,201	587,477
1925.....	346,381	223,604	43,929	24,067	22,100	574,489
1926.....	362,876	234,873	39,772	23,872	23,868	549,472
May—						
1920.....	19,112	10,863	4,210	1,778	1,488	33,225
1921.....	23,569	19,196	3,328	1,542	1,916	49,291
1922.....	28,204	21,965	3,737	1,878	1,692	56,636
1923.....	17,457	10,809	4,524	1,900	1,794	54,249
1924.....	16,039	15,988	4,321	1,890	1,344	56,937
1925.....	17,896	11,935	3,283	1,737	1,689	56,838
1926						
January.....	19,076	28,268	4,304	1,840	1,548	39,424
February.....	15,923	25,718	3,372	1,551	1,486	39,507
March.....	15,052	20,080	3,579	1,811	1,695	46,077
April.....	13,458	12,589	3,135	1,711	1,502	45,501
May.....	15,260	11,972	3,037	1,894	1,717	54,464
June.....	18,505	23,912	3,143	1,871	1,913	75,931
July.....	68,200	13,353	2,854	1,821	1,739	68,393
August.....	67,952	11,513	2,804	1,997	2,277	50,476
September.....	46,266	13,740	2,819	2,397	3,279	44,761
October.....	35,124	28,613	3,261	2,674	3,090	38,166
November.....	28,229	22,587	3,554	2,460	1,917	34,180
December.....	19,831	22,528	3,910	1,846	1,706	36,054
1927						
January.....	19,379	23,658	4,252	1,832	1,740	37,705
February.....	19,462	24,499	3,308	1,555	1,496	38,375
March.....	17,504	18,535	3,754	1,743	1,558	45,210
April.....	13,680	10,445	3,142	1,674	1,486	48,279
May.....	17,760	12,908	3,582	1,955	2,044	63,710

The most significant item here is the heavy receipts of butter—considerably more butter coming to market during May than in any previous May in seven years. The run of hogs and sheep to market was also rather heavy.

THE TREND OF EXPORT MOVEMENT

[Compiled from the Department of Commerce reports by division of statistical research of this bureau]

Year and month	Wheat, ¹ including flour	Tobacco (leaf)	Bacon, ² hams, and shoulders	Lard	Total ³ meats	Cotton, ⁴ running bales
	<i>1,000 bushels</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 bales</i>
Total—						
1920-----	311, 601	467, 662	821, 922	612, 250	1, 043, 500	6, 111
1921-----	359, 021	515, 353	647, 680	868, 942	786, 280	6, 385
1922-----	235, 307	430, 908	631, 452	766, 950	733, 832	6, 015
1923-----	175, 190	474, 500	828, 890	1, 035, 382	958, 472	5, 224
1924-----	241, 454	546, 555	637, 980	944, 095	729, 832	6, 653
1925-----	138, 784	468, 471	467, 459	688, 829	547, 361	8, 362
1926-----	193, 861	478, 769	351, 591	698, 971	428, 613	8, 916
May—						
1920-----	26, 555	33, 303	68, 309	55, 544	88, 253	359
1921-----	31, 877	40, 220	53, 973	48, 604	63, 070	473
1922-----	14, 485	38, 844	44, 058	50, 817	50, 196	457
1923-----	14, 593	28, 421	64, 608	93, 199	72, 606	158
1924-----	7, 401	39, 661	45, 584	62, 648	51, 380	307
1925-----	13, 114	22, 415	33, 475	71, 135	38, 977	314
1926						
January-----	5, 587	46, 891	46, 654	76, 670	53, 833	735
February-----	4, 742	47, 147	37, 187	65, 356	45, 292	545
March-----	7, 039	36, 167	34, 133	64, 259	40, 641	512
April-----	6, 452	43, 388	31, 410	63, 160	37, 947	506
May-----	12, 558	27, 431	30, 104	58, 154	35, 197	412
June-----	11, 210	30, 762	23, 861	56, 482	29, 959	339
July-----	19, 811	29, 760	22, 457	45, 879	28, 221	356
August-----	35, 774	26, 263	29, 090	54, 273	34, 762	385
September-----	31, 031	38, 319	26, 927	61, 577	33, 843	789
October-----	24, 098	53, 129	23, 873	46, 988	30, 384	1, 359
November-----	20, 545	49, 136	22, 384	43, 488	30, 177	1, 475
December-----	15, 301	50, 375	23, 503	62, 690	28, 746	1, 504
1927						
January-----	12, 821	66, 337	20, 597	59, 842	25, 748	1, 074
February-----	8, 997	46, 840	19, 476	49, 884	24, 313	979
March-----	9, 183	41, 669	18, 108	53, 040	23, 754	1, 084
April-----	16, 039	35, 041	17, 844	67, 345	23, 930	825
May-----	14, 123	40, 376	21, 634	64, 418	27, 035	612

¹ Wheat flour is converted on a basis of 4.7 bushels of grain equal 1 barrel of flour.

² Includes Cumberland and Wiltshire sides.

³ Includes fresh, canned, and pickled beef, bacon, hams, and shoulders; fresh, canned, and pickled pork; fresh mutton and lamb.

⁴ Excludes linters.

THE DAIRY SITUATION

With the month of June gone, there is more evidence now of this year's production trend. The summer months, which are important from a production standpoint, are still ahead and should unusual weather prevail, unexpected changes in production may occur.

Nearly all reports on production reveal increases over last year. The last estimate of butter production covering May is an increase of 6 per cent over May of last year and receipts of butter at principal markets since then, which are some index of production, have been running almost 5 per cent above those of last June. Increased market receipts the past two months have been sufficient to bring the total for the calendar year to about 3 per cent over the same period in 1926, but it is interesting to note that close to half of the actual increase has occurred during the past 30 days. Even cheese production, which has been lagging behind for some time, has apparently picked up, although the net difference as compared with last year is still slight. Until the past month, however, cheese production has been considerably less than that of a year ago. The greatest increase seems to be condensed and evaporated milk, with the month of May reported as 19 per cent heavier than 1926. Favorable weather and pastures have contributed to the increases.

There has been a very active movement of butter into storage since June 1. Total storage stocks at that time of 25,340,000 pounds were approximately 5,000,000 pounds less than holdings at the beginning of June last year. Current reports which are available from important storage centers indicate that the quantities moving into storage are somewhat greater this year than last, so that by July 1 the storage reserve of butter may not differ greatly from that of July 1, 1926. The change which has taken place in the butter storage situation during the past 30 days has not occurred without more or less hesitancy on the part of those who have stored butter. In fact, considerable quantities of butter are said to have been placed in storage, not so much from a desire to store at prevailing prices as from the standpoint of protection against a falling market on the part of dealers who buy from shippers on a day-of-arrival basis. To have placed large quantities of the heavy arrivals on the market would have caused inevitable price declines.

The month, as a whole, has been notable for the steady course followed by butter prices, with a range (at this writing, June 24) of but 1 cent between high and low quotations on 92 score butter at New York. The month's average has been running about a cent over last year. Cheese prices recently declined slightly in Wisconsin but such a change is not entirely unexpected at this time of the year, nor was the change entirely reflected in wholesale distributing markets. Fluid milk prices show slight reductions in some sections but for the most part are about where they were a month ago. As has been the case for several months, stocks of canned milk in the hands of manufacturers reached a new low record on June 1, this occurring despite the heavy May pack. These stocks of 148,000,000 pounds are 30,000,000 pounds below the five-year average.

Taking dairy markets as a whole, the situation may be briefly summed up by saying that dairy markets are on a steady basis.

L. M. DAVIS,
Division of Dairy and Poultry Products, B. A. E.

THE EGG AND POULTRY SITUATION

During June there has been a marked shift in the egg market situation. Where at the opening there was still evidence of the depressed conditions which were prominent throughout the spring months, it was not long until the market took on a more healthy tone. This was largely due to decreasing receipts and lighter storage movement which naturally were followed by a return of confidence and advances in prices.

Receipts at the larger terminal markets were lighter than those of May by about 20 per cent. While a decrease is the normal thing during this period, the amount of the decrease this year has been rather more than normal. For the first time in 1927 receipts were running behind those of a corresponding period in 1926. The decrease under June, 1926, was approximately 9.5 per cent, although the total of receipts since January 1 this year is still materially above last year. This decrease in receipts has been the prime factor in the strengthening of the market situation.

Prices have been affected, of course. Beginning with about the second week in June, there has been a steadily rising market. The net advance up to the 25th of the month amounted to 2 to 3 cents, leaving prices 4 to 5 cents lower than a year earlier. It will be remembered that on June 1, prices were about 9 cents below the same date of 1926. Part of this gain was due to advances this year, and part to declines a year ago during June.

The storage situation is still a very important factor. On June 1, holdings in the United States amounted to 9,096,000 cases of shell eggs and 71,408,000 pounds of frozen product. This was a surplus over 1926 of 1,860,000 cases of shell eggs and 36,593,000 pounds of frozen eggs. Up to that time the movement into storage had consistently exceeded that of 1926 but during most of June, as market arrivals dropped, the movement began to slow up and it is now apparent that the surplus over last year on July 1 is not as large as a month ago. This is of material importance in the regaining of confidence in the market.

The extremely large holdings of frozen eggs are worthy of special comment. The holdings now are more than twice as great as the heaviest June on record, which was last year, and are by far the largest holdings ever reported. This branch of the egg industry has been growing steadily and rapidly for a number of years, and the increase this season appears to be especially marked.

On the dressed poultry markets we find the same situation that has prevailed all this year. Storage stocks are heavy and moving rather slowly, casting a shadow over the whole market. Storage stocks on June 1 totaled 61,488,000 pounds, a surplus of nearly 17,000,000 pounds over June, 1926. The surplus has been gradually cut down and to this extent the market position has improved. At present the situation is considered moderately steady with prices still consistently lower than last year.

There is nothing new in the live poultry markets. Receipts continue liberal for the most part and the fluctuations in prices have maintained the traditions of this commodity.

C. E. ECKLES,
Division of Dairy and Poultry Products, B. A. E.

THE GRAIN MARKET

Unfavorable weather, giving corn and spring wheat a late start and cutting down the yield of winter wheat, has forced corn prices sharply upward and caused substantial advances in wheat and other grains. Corn prices the latter part of June are around 30 cents higher than the low point reached early in the spring and are more than 25 cents higher than a year ago, while oat quotations are about 8 cents above those of a year back. Domestic wheat prices east of the Rockies show an advance of nearly 20 cents from the low point this spring, but are still hardly so high as a year ago, when, however, they were declining rapidly.

CORN CROP VERY BACKWARD

Excessive rains delayed corn planting seriously in nearly all sections of the Corn Belt and apparently caused some reduction from the intended acreage.

The sharp advance in market prices has attracted increased country offerings, particularly at western markets, although part of the increase may be attributed to the usual after-planting movement of corn. Consuming demand has been only moderately active at the higher levels and market stocks have shown some increase for the past four weeks, being nearly 35,000,000 bushels on June 18. This is slightly larger than a year ago.

Argentine corn has been sold on the Pacific coast—some to arrive the latter part of July. These shipments will reduce the demand for middle western corn for shipment to that territory and should corn prices be maintained, doubtless some of the demand from Atlantic coast points may also be supplied by Argentine offerings. However, only limited amounts of that corn will be available, since the whole exportable surplus of that country, estimated at around 200,000,000 bushels from their large crop this season, is less than 10 per cent of the United States crop and hardly so large as the 220,000,000 bushels received at primary markets from the crop of 1924. A considerable percentage of the Argentine crop will also be taken by European countries.

Stocks of corn and oats on March 1 were slightly under the average of the previous five years, while the backward season prolonged spring feeding over a wide area. Offsetting these factors, however, are the decreases in horses, cattle, and mules and the tendency of present high prices to cause economical feeding. The number of pigs on farms will be an important item in the demand for corn, but with hogs approximately \$5 per hundredweight lower than a year ago old corn will doubtless be fed more sparingly than last season.

Oats prices have not followed the full advance in corn and it appears that much of the strength displayed by oats has been due to anticipation of some substitution of this grain for corn, although much of the crop was seeded late, due to heavy rains, and some was put in under unfavorable conditions.

WHEAT GOVERNED BY WORLD CONDITIONS

Winter wheat growers east of the Rockies face a situation much different from that of a year ago. Wheat prices in central western markets at that time had been largely above a world basis, but it was

evident that the excellent winter wheat crop of 1926 would reestablish winter wheat prices on an export parity and that large amounts would be available quickly for export. The quality of the crop was good and the protein content of the hard winter wheat was high, so that premiums for high-protein wheat declined sharply.

This year the winter wheat crop is much smaller than last season's outturn, and available reports indicate that the protein content of the early harvestings is much smaller than a year ago.

Decidedly less wheat will be available for export from the Southwest during 1927-28 than in 1926-27, and export buying has been fairly active with dealers bidding about 3 cents per bushel more than a year ago in spite of the slightly lower world prices this season. Forecasts based on the June 1 condition in the important soft winter wheat States indicate a reduction in soft winter wheat considerably in excess of the amount of that wheat inspected for export July-April this season. Production of hard winter wheat is also reduced.

World prices as measured by Liverpool quotations advanced during the spring because of unfavorable crop news in North America and unfavorable seeding conditions in the Southern Hemisphere. Excessive rains seriously delayed the seeding of spring wheat both in the United States and Canada and caused some reduction in acreage. The second estimate of acreage in the Canadian Prairie Provinces, made by the Manitoba Free Press, places the 1927 figure at about 89 per cent of last year's area, with acreage in Saskatchewan estimated about 85 per cent of that harvested last year, in Manitoba 75 per cent, and in Alberta about 105 per cent. Moisture conditions have been very favorable, but part of the acreage was seeded late and will require very favorable weather and no early frosts in the fall in order to mature.

Liverpool quotations have been well maintained at the advance, with the reduction in the hard winter-wheat crop in the United States and drought in the Southern Hemisphere largely offsetting the improvement in spring wheat in the United States and Canada.

The unusually heavy world shipments of wheat and flour have been readily absorbed, and although European-port stocks showed a slight increase the first half of June, the supply on ocean passage was correspondingly reduced. The backward condition of crops in many European countries suggests that heavy importations may be continued longer than in an average year. However, there were about 70,000,000 bushels more wheat available in the four principal exporting countries and on ocean passage on June 1 this year than at the same time in 1926, so that supplies for the present season continue ample.

For the coming season, best official and trade information indicates that the European wheat and rye crops will be a little larger than the 1926 harvest, but it does not seem likely that the increase there will be sufficient to make up for the probable reduction in the 1927-28 offerings from North America and the Southern Hemisphere. Australian wheat prices have been unsatisfactory to farmers there, both because prices at Liverpool early in 1927 were lower than for the same time in 1926 and because freight rates from Australia to Europe have been considerably higher this season than last.

Definite information concerning the Russian crop and the amount of old-crop supplies on hand is not available, but shipments from that country have become small, while best trade opinion is that the surplus for export for the coming season is not likely to exceed the amount shipped in 1926-27.

While the trend of world prices in the near future will be determined by crop developments in important regions, the lowered prospect for the winter-wheat crop in the United States makes the outturn of the spring-wheat crop here relatively more important in the domestic price level.

On the Pacific coast prospects point to a bumper crop, and a large surplus will probably be available for export during the coming season. Production of winter wheat in California is forecast from June 1 condition at over 30 per cent more than the 1926 harvest, so that less wheat is likely to be required by that State from the Pacific Northwest. In the Pacific Northwest conditions on June 1 were only slightly more favorable than a year ago, but soaking rains which overspread the area early in June were highly beneficial to the crop.

H. S. IRWIN,

Grain, Hay and Feed Market News Service, B. A. E.

CROP CONDITIONS IN VARIOUS KEY STATES

(As of June 20)

KANSAS

Ever since seeding time for winter grain, alternating wet and dry periods have tossed Kansas farmers from crests of hope to troughs of despair. A dry fall and winter in western Kansas either prevented germination or weakened the vitality of the wheat. Late March and all of April brought generous rains in all sections and, except for limited portions of the West, the first of May saw an excellent outlook for a bumper wheat crop. May was almost rainless with drying winds that whipped the tender and overstimulated growth of April and blighted a prospect that seemed ideal. June opened with a forecast considerably below the five-year average for winter wheat; with oats and barley showing bad May slumps in condition; and with corn and sorghum planting much delayed and stands thinned from cutworms and poor germination.

Rains began again on June 1 and increased in frequency and amount for three consecutive weeks. A wheat harvest that promised to be in full swing by June 20 was hardly begun. Fields were logy from constant downpours. The use of heavy machinery was impossible. A fleet of 8,276 combines that worked in the 1926 harvest, supplemented by about 4,000 new machines distributed in the Kansas fields for this year's harvest, was idle and for the time being almost powerless. Discarded binders and headers were being hauled out and put in condition for emergency service and the farmers' hearts were heavy waiting for the rains to cease. In the meantime red rust has been spreading rapidly and many of the best fields of wheat in eastern Kansas have lodged in a vast wet wilderness. Even with clearing weather the harvest will be difficult and the final outcome very dubious as to yield and quality.

Between rains corn has received some much needed cultivation during June. It has grown rapidly and in spite of weediness the outlook is better than on June 1. The West is ceasing to mourn over a wheat crop that is lost and is beginning to enthuse over a moisture situation that holds out hopes of a corn crop to come and possibilities of a good seed bed for next fall seeding. In spite of a late start, some weediness, and a thin stand, the corn situation does not seem irretrievable.

Kafir, milo, and feterita are very late. Some is still to be planted on June 20. The Southwest has been prohibited from its intended and normal acreage by lack of early rain. Potentially, the sorghums can not make a large crop, but they can yet make a very good crop.

Oat harvest started the third week of June, but has made little progress. Rust is very prevalent. The straw is short and the heads are not large nor very full. Barley outlook has improved materially in the Northwest, but is far from satisfactory. No event could make it a good crop.

The first cutting of alfalfa was quite satisfactory. The delayed cuttings were injured by rains, but second growth is excellent and the next cutting will be good. Wild meadows, timothy, and clover all make a fine show for excellent yields. Pastures could hardly be better. Cattle in the blue-stem pastures of the Flint Hills are more numerous than a year ago by at least 8 per cent and are putting on flesh rapidly with promise of early market movement.

Livestock men are generally very optimistic. In spite of an increased movement into the Flint Hills over last year those pastures are still understocked. The short-grass pastures in western Kansas are decidedly lacking in their normal quota and their carrying power is certainly larger now than a year ago because of improved moisture conditions. While hog prices have declined and corn prices moved to higher levels to wipe out a favorable corn-hog ratio, the opinion prevails that the supply of hogs is not too large and improvement in the market is anticipated in the near future. The spring pig crop in Kansas was generally good, with litters averaging about the same as last year. The calf crop is heralded as one of the best for several years.

E. C. PAXTON,
State Statistician, B. A. E.

NEBRASKA

With a few exceptions, the general crop situation is excellent. The moisture supply ranges from ample to an excess in limited areas. A few counties have been slightly short of moisture. Corn and oats are a little late, while other crops are at the usual stage of growth for this date. The extremely short crops last year did not take much plant food from the soil, so it is unusually well supplied, being in similar condition to summer fallowed land. More sunshine and summer temperatures needed.

Corn averages two weeks late. The weather has been too cool and wet. More than the usual replanting was necessary. Cutworms have done considerable injury. The present condition of corn in the leading producing sections is good and with the large reserve of subsoil moisture and the strong condition of the soil, the corn prospects are good. The acreage will be slightly less than intended.

The winter wheat prospect is by far the best on record for this date. The stands are heavy, straw and heads exceptionally long, and, barring black stem rust or storm injury, the yields may exceed present high expectations. There is a large increase in acreage and a record production is expected.

Part of the oats were sown very late. Early oats are very promising. The outcome of the late oats will depend upon July temperatures. The acreage is smaller. Other spring grain crops are in excellent condition, with increased acreages.

Hay crops are excellent. Rains injured considerable of the first cutting of alfalfa. Forage crop acreage is larger and the condition good. Pastures have never been better at this date.

A. E. ANDERSON,
State Statistician, B. A. E.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Weather since June 1 has been favorable to growth of small grain, hay, and pasture. Corn is mostly up and making fair progress but needs favorable weather to catch up delayed growth.

Corn planting is practically completed but the lateness of the season has reduced the acreage much below farmers' intentions to plant earlier in season. The corn crop is fully two weeks late but with favorable temperatures much of the delayed growth can still be caught up because of very favorable soil moisture conditions. The plants are of good color and fields are quite clean. About 10 per cent of the crop has been replanted, due largely to poor conditions for germination and to some extent insect damage. Damage from seed-corn maggot, cutworms, and wireworms was a factor of some importance in the central area of the State.

Prospects for wheat are unusually good, although the acreage was cut by weather conditions at seeding time. Stand is good and weather favorable for growth. Winter wheat and rye are heading out. Acreage of these crops is small in South Dakota but yield promises well. Barley and oats uniformly good, with few exceptions where fields show effects of excess water in early stages of growth.

Flax sowing still in progress on an increased acreage, as this crop is being used as a substitute for corn in many places. Crop is making favorable progress although somewhat late.

Pastures are furnishing plenty of feed and hay growth is heavy, although some fields show effects of dry winter. First cutting of alfalfa is beginning.

Lamb and calf crops show fair percentages. Losses due to May storms reduced otherwise favorable prospect. Pig crop reduced below last year largely due to less favorable condition for young pigs. Sows were also fewer in central area. Reports indicate summer shipments will run below last year.

OWEN L. DAWSON,
State Statistician, B. A. E.

NORTH DAKOTA

Fair weather with occasional local showers and higher temperatures during the first two weeks of June, have benefited greatly all North Dakota crops. Earlier cold, rainy weather held back growth, but in general the crops have all made a strong growth and developed

strong root systems. Seeding of wheat and other small grain crops was of necessity continued unusually late. The appearance of crops in general is good, though they are from 10 days to 2 weeks late. The most serious weed pests have been able to get a good start and may be an important factor in final crop production. In general, the condition of all crops is good and the prospects for a good crop season are bright. With a continuation of the warm weather all crops will make rapid gains. The moisture supply is, in general, good though a few localities need rain.

Winter rye condition in North Dakota is excellent, the best in several years. It is heading out and the prospects for a good crop are unusually good. The condition of the oats crop is good but growth has been slow. The color is good and with warm weather, such as has been experienced the past two weeks, should come along rapidly.

Spring wheat condition is about average though the crop is late. Seeding was continued unusually late but the crop is coming along very well considering early adverse weather conditions. It is jointing in some southern counties. In general the stands are good, though some fields are spotted, due to accumulation of excess water in low spots. It is making a strong root growth and stooling well.

Barley seeding is just completed in the sections of the State having the greatest precipitation. The condition of the early seeded barley is good and while the crop is late, with the plentiful supply of moisture and warmer temperatures should develop rapidly.

Corn planting in North Dakota has been delayed by the rainy weather until the acreage will, no doubt, reflect the unfavorable spring weather conditions. It is, however, showing above ground and will make rapid gains with temperatures such as have been experienced the last few days.

Flax and potatoes are being planted and, though some of the earliest seeded are showing above ground, they are not sufficiently advanced to report on. Prospects are very promising, however.

All North Dakota hay crops, as well as pastures, are in good to excellent condition. Warmer temperatures with the plentiful moisture supply have hastened the growth of these crops. Spring range prospects, as well, are good.

Weed pests have been enabled to make a strong start due to cool, rainy weather which has held back crop development and kept farmers out of the fields. Wild oats have practically taken some fields already, according to reports. However, the general crop outlook in North Dakota is very good and there is, in general, an optimistic attitude, much different from the attitude prevalent the 1st of June.

PAUL C. NEWMAN,
State Statistician, B. A. E.

IOWA

The Iowa corn situation need not be discussed in terms of pessimism. The cynic may want to present the State in a cloak of gloom, but the bright spots should at least have due credit. A corn crop failure in Iowa has never been recorded. In spite of the very backward spring season, with exceptionally disappointing prospects in some sections, progress in the corn situation since the 1st of June

has modified the outlook until a near-normal condition can be forecast for the State by the end of June. In the eastern half of the State, the season has continued with adverse weather and soil factors more persistently than in the western half. At the present time, the area of little or no improvement since June 1 is confined very largely to the counties bordering upon the Mississippi River. Both corn and small grain in the northeastern and in the southeastern counties are still suffering seriously from excessive moisture and temperature unfavorable for normal growth.

Cultivation of corn has progressed quite favorably in the larger portion of the State, in some counties the average of two cultivations has been completed. In lowlands and on heavy, poorly drained soils the first cultivation is yet to be accomplished. Replanted areas are just taking the cultivator for the first time. In a small area of the southwest, the soil was abnormally dry at planting time and corn did not appear above ground until nearly three weeks after planting. In other areas adverse factors, such as sand blowing and hailstorms, which frequently occur in any normal season, have taken some toll.

More hard labor is represented in the present corn crop than in many years. The conditions in at least two-thirds of the State have been 100 per cent favorable for weedy fields, and weed patches will undoubtedly continue their aggravation throughout the season. In central and western Iowa conditions more favorable than in any of the past 10 years are reported from a number of counties. Corn land comprises nearly 40 per cent of the total farm acreage in the northwestern district of the State and has approximately 15 per cent of the total corn acreage of the State. The crop has progressed at a near-normal rate in this district.

Although very little of the corn acreage will have been "laid by" on the Fourth of July the average of the State will be nearly knee-high if hot weather continues.

Small grains generally show favorable progress. A favorably heavy crop of winter wheat is being forecast in many of the counties in which this crop is grown. Spring wheat in the northern counties has suffered to some extent from early adverse seed-bed conditions but the handicap has been outgrown apparently and a heavy crop is being predicted. This crop and oats may suffer at heading time from hot weather. Although growing conditions have been quite favorable during the past month, the delay at seeding time may place the filling grain in a precarious position. In northeastern Iowa many oat fields have been nearly smothered to death by grasses and weeds. This is true in southeastern counties also. In the northwestern and west central districts having approximately 31 per cent of the total oats acreage, this crop shows a very favorable outlook, stands are favorable, the straw is of normal length, and a general healthy color of plants predominates.

Alfalfa acreage increases are being promoted quite strenuously in a number of counties. This crop has grown in favor in the northwest and in the dairy sections of the northeast. First crop alfalfa is meeting its fate by the mower with normal yields reported. Sweet clover acreage is on the increase and some is being cut now for hay. Ordinarily sweet clover in Iowa is pastured and cut for seed. Soybean acreage is on the increase, as much as 50 per cent in some southeastern counties. These increases in acreage are not taking the

place of corn acreage as might have been expected, but are rather filling the gaps as left by the reduced oats acreage.

LESLIE M. CARL,
State Statistician, B. A. E.

ILLINOIS

The fairly strong position of the livestock industry, excellent prospects for grass crops and rising grain prices are the optimistic features of the State agricultural situation. The decline in hog prices has been largely offset by marked gains in cattle values. But, generally speaking, the unfavorable factors tend to outweigh the favorable factors in Illinois agriculture at present.

The situation is clouded by one of the most discouraging and backward crop seasons on record. With few exceptions, crop conditions are spotted and not very encouraging. Corn planting is about three weeks late, with around 85 per cent completed on June 20. Ordinarily corn planting is practically completed by June 1. Ideal summer and fall conditions will be necessary to mature the bulk of the corn crop.

Delays to farm work due to wet field conditions have been cumulative since last September. This situation became increasingly discouraging this spring with prolonged periods of excessive wet and cool weather through April and May retarding or keeping work at a standstill. Farm work is especially backward in the southern counties. Rains have been less excessive in the northern fifth of the State and the progress of farm work is more advanced and the general condition of crops is somewhat better there than in the central and southern areas. June conditions have been more favorable and rain interruptions to work less frequent. Farm work has made surprising progress, as it has been speeded up to the limit at every opportunity. Much needed sunshine has resulted in some improvement in plant growth and color.

The total acreage in crops this season will be somewhat below normal, due to flood loss. Fully a half million acres of crop lands were flooded, but it is doubtful if more than a quarter of this area will be out of crop this season. The severe flood damage was chiefly along the Illinois River area and in southern counties bordering on the Mississippi River. Considerable readjustment of acreage plans has been necessary due to unfavorable spring conditions. Reduced acreages of corn and oats will be largely offset by increased acreages of hay, barley, spring wheat, soy beans, cowpeas, and buckwheat.

Illinois hay and pasture conditions stand out as the most favorable of all crops. Winter wheat is slightly above average and all other crops somewhat below average. Growth of spring-sown crops is especially late as a rule. Scald, rust, many weedy fields, washing, and drowning out of crops in low spots have been contributing damage factors. Winter wheat ranges from maturing in the south to bloom stage in the north. Only a fair fill reported. Scattered early oat fields heading as far north as the central area. Mostly in the boot stage in central and northern area, the main oats belt. Small grains though late have shown some improvement since June 1. Fruits were damaged considerably by April frosts and prospect is below average. The commercial peach crop is fair, with expected shipments 2,000 cars against 3,000 last season. Apples slightly better than half crop.

Corn reserves on farms are above average; however, there is much off-grade corn on hand for which the feed lot offers the most profitable market route. It is doubtful if there is a much larger surplus than usual of high-grade merchantable corn in the State.

Summer cattle feeding will be largely carried out as planned but the less favorable corn-hog ratio has forced somewhat heavier marketing of hogs than earlier planned. Some fears of losses from cholera has also been a factor in the hog market movement. Cattle numbers on farms are about the same with hogs and sheep numbers slightly increased over those of a year ago. Dairying continues profitable but poultry and poultry products are not paying as well as last season.

Farm labor and credit conditions are satisfactory. Farmers as a rule are holding down labor and all other expenses to the minimum, due to shortage of cash following unprofitable farming operations on many farms last season. Little progress has been made with debt liquidation during the past year. Building operations in the larger cities are holding up quite well. Very little building activity in medium and smaller towns. General business and labor conditions in Illinois can not be rated better than fair.

A. J. SURRATT,
State Statistician, B. A. E.

TEXAS

Prior to June 12, very little rain had fallen in six months over some 50,000,000 acres of western Texas. An area of crop land fully as large as the flooded acreage in the Mississippi Valley was so dry that planting was at a standstill. Conditions had become distressing, but beneficial rains came in time to avert a situation which threatened to be the worst in a decade.

This dry area last year produced more than 1,000,000 bales of cotton and a large proportion of the State total of wheat, barley, oats, grain, sorghums. Approximately 1,500,000 head of cattle were faced with scanty or no feed at all. Prospects changed almost overnight and there is now promise of a fair cotton, feed, and grass crop.

Other sections of the State also received rains during the month, too much in places, but in general of tremendous benefit. Drought and high temperatures reduced the yield of wheat, and the large oat acreage was affected by a rainy season with resultant damage from rust and greenbugs. Corn is now doing well; much of the early crop is ripening. Grain sorghums and hay crops have been planted in increased extent over the erstwhile dry areas.

Cotton stands are good this year but the plants are small and late except in parts of the south. Evidences are easily visible of decreased acreage, much of last year's cotton land having gone into wheat, oats, corn, and feed or being allowed to lie idle. The average date of planting was at least two weeks later than usual. Chopping has made good progress and stands are clean. Showery weather this season will mean great weevil activity. In the northwest, the usual date of planting is the second week in May, but this year only a small part of the crop was up on June 12. However, fair crops have been made on the south plains when planted as late as June 20.

The east Texas tomato crop is moving in large volume, while onions from north Texas and watermelons are meeting with good demand. Demand for labor has been less than the supply, even the matter of

harvest hands in the wheat fields was of little concern, a result of rather poor production and the utilization of some 3,300 combined harvesters.

H. H. SCHUTZ,
State Statistician, B. A. E.

GEORGIA

Following an extremely dry spring, the month of June has been featured by frequent and general rains which have completely broken a drought that was causing serious concern over a large part of the State. All spring-planted crops have been greatly benefited and, being in a very good state of cultivation when the rains came, rapid recovery and progress are expected.

The dry weather during May, while very damaging to some crops, especially tobacco and early corn in southern Georgia, was not entirely detrimental. The open weather enabled farmers to complete spring planting on schedule time in most of the State and to get their fields in an excellent state of cultivation before the rains came. A majority of the farmers in the State have planted as full an acreage as they could hope to cultivate under favorable conditions with their present labor supply. A wet May would have left many with grassy crops.

Cotton is getting away to a very satisfactory start, so far as stands and early growth are concerned. The crop is earlier than last year in the northern half of the State and about the same as last year in the remainder of the State. Boll weevils, being present in greater numbers in many localities of southern Georgia, constitute a threat, the seriousness of which is dependent upon weather conditions during the summer.

Small-grain harvest was completed under favorable weather conditions. Per acre yields of both wheat and oats were very low, as compared with last year. Following recent rains, much of the stubble has been plowed under and an increased acreage of annual legume hay sown.

Early corn, particularly in southern Georgia, was badly damaged by droughty conditions. However, rains came in time to greatly benefit later plantings and a good corn crop in the State is still possible.

Tobacco, while showing considerable improvement since June 1, will not yield as heavily per acre as did last year's crop. Because of insufficient moisture during the early spring months, stands are rather poor and rains came too late to greatly benefit some of the early transplanted acreage.

Peaches, particularly the late varieties, were also benefited by rains, although present estimates are below expectations of a month ago and considerably below last year's total shipments. The general farm crop is very light and shows a much greater reduction compared with last year than does the commercial crop.

Apple and pecan prospects are also much below last year.

Peanuts planted on a greatly increased acreage are making very satisfactory progress, so far as stands and early growth are concerned.

Farmers and business men associated with farming are more optimistic than they have been at any time this season.

V. C. CHILDS,
State Statistician, B. A. E.

COLORADO

The quite general and almost continuous rains, commencing June 2, have greatly improved all crops, pastures, and ranges in Colorado, except for some winter wheat and hay, which were too severely injured by the seven weeks drought and winds (and in the southeast by the 10 months drought). Some replanting of corn and sugar beets has been necessary. In many instances beans have been planted instead. The rains also have increased the direct flow of irrigation water and permitted some refilling of reservoirs.

All livestock is in good condition, with good calf and lamb prospects. Many lambs have been contracted for fall delivery, and the outlook is quite encouraging.

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NEW ENGLAND

Spring weather conditions in New England have been comparatively favorable to farm work but rather unfavorable to plant growth, except hay and pasture. Rainfall has been sufficient for immediate needs in southern New England and ample to heavy in northern New England. Cold, cloudy weather has prevailed much of the time since May 1.

An increased acreage of potatoes is expected, although the amount is very uncertain, as excessive rains have hampered planting in Aroostook County, Me. The 1926 crop appears to be well cleaned up.

Connecticut Valley onion acreage has increased to 4,627 acres, 2.4 per cent above the total of last year of 4,519 acres. Set onions fell off 20 per cent, while seed onions gained 23 per cent. Seed onions are in about average condition. Set onions are going to seed badly in some places.

New England apple trees generally carried a good bloom. McIntosh were particularly heavy, while Baldwins are a light prospect following last year's heavy crop. The blossom generally, however, was fully up to average. The percentage of the total number of reports for each variety that show a good bloom or better are as follows: McIntosh, 90 per cent; Greenings, 56 per cent; Gravenstein and Ben Davis, 55 per cent; Astrachan, 54 per cent; Duchess, 53 per cent; Wealthy, 51 per cent; Transparent, 47 per cent; Delicious, 44 per cent; Wolfe River, 37 per cent; and Baldwins, 22 per cent. The prospect seems to be best in Maine, where the apple crop was light in 1926 and lighter in States which were favored with a big crop last season. The blossom period was rather unfavorable. Much of the month of May in New England was cold and cloudy. As a result the set is very uncertain and likely to be light.

Small grains, hay, and feed crops have benefited generally from the rainy weather and are a much better prospect than a year ago, although only about average. Pastures are good. Milk production is at the high level of the season and favored by good pastures and low grain prices.

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